

AFC'S GUIDE TO

# Education Options for Immigrant Youth Aged 14-21

December 2025



Advocates for Children of New York  
Protecting every child's right to learn

Are you looking to enroll in school in New York City? Are you 14-21 years old and an immigrant who arrived in NYC less than 3 years ago?

**If so, this guide is for you!**

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*This guide does not constitute legal advice. This guide attempts to summarize existing policies or laws without stating the opinion of AFC. If you have a legal problem, please contact an attorney or advocate.*

# INTRODUCTION

This guide has information about how immigrant youth can enroll in school in New York City. It describes the programs available to youth who arrived recently and are between the ages of 14 and 21.

**If you have questions after reading this guide, call AFC's free Education Helpline:**

**866-427-6033 • Monday–Thursday • 10am–4pm**

**or send us a message on our website: [www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org).**

**We can speak to you in YOUR language**

## You Have Rights:

1. You have the right to go to public school **regardless of your immigration status** or your family's immigration status.
2. You have the right to go to school **even if you did not attend school before.**
3. You have the right **to learn English in school.**
4. You have the right to go to school until the end of the school year when you turn **21 years old.**
5. If you receive special education services, you have the right to **stay in school until the end of the school year when you turn 22.**
6. **If you are living in temporary housing**, you have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if you do not have all of the documents needed.
7. If you are not living with a parent, you can enroll in school on your own. **You do not need an adult to go with you.**



# **YOUR SCHOOL OPTIONS**

There are New York City Public Schools (“NYCPS”) that can support you and help you earn your high school diploma. If you would like to enroll in school or another educational program, and you are between the ages of 14 and 21, you have two main options.

## **I. High Schools**

*or*

## **2. High School Equivalency (HSE) and Other Programs for Youth 17+**

The right fit for you will depend on your age, previous education, the language you speak, and other preferences. This guide also has information about other educational programs in the section called “Other Educational Options.”

## **HIGH SCHOOLS**

High schools are schools that serve students from 9th to 12th grade. Students typically begin high school at 14 years old and take at least four years to finish. Any student, regardless of what language they speak or previous education, can enroll in NYCPS high schools until they are 21 years old.

When you complete the graduation requirements, including taking certain classes and passing state exams, you will earn a high school diploma. A high school diploma can help you go to college, vocational programs, or get a job.

### **NOTE:**

**All NYCPS high schools are completely FREE**

There are several different kinds of high schools that provide support to students learning English and older students. Below are some options.

## ► International High Schools

International high schools are small, supportive schools that serve immigrant students aged 14-21 who have been in the US for 4 years or less and are learning the English language.

These schools provide a high school diploma and are located in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens. Students at international high schools attend school Monday-Friday, usually from 8am-4pm. These schools offer:

- Extra help with reading, writing, and math
- Bilingual social workers
- Smaller classroom sizes
- Paid (and unpaid) internships and/or job opportunities
- Enrollment in free college classes while in high school
- Individual support to apply to college
- Other services provided by organizations in the community such as help with immigration and housing



International High School	Address
International High School at Union Square	40 Irving Pl, New York, NY 10003
Manhattan International High School	317 E 67th St, New York, NY 10065
International Community High School	345 Brook Ave, Bronx, NY 10454
Crotona International High School	2474 Crotona Ave, Bronx, NY 10458
Bronx International High School	1110 Boston Rd, Bronx, NY 10456
Claremont International High School	240 E 172nd St, Bronx, NY 10457

Pan American International High School at Monroe	1300 Boynton Ave Floor 4, Bronx, NY 10472
International High School at Prospect Heights	883 Classon Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225
International High School at Lafayette	2630 Benson Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11214
Brooklyn International High School	49 Flatbush Ave Ext, Brooklyn, NY 11201
International High School for Health Sciences	48-01 90th St, Elmhurst, NY 11373
International High School at LaGuardia Community College	45-35 Van Dam St, Long Island City, NY 11101
Flushing International High School	144-80 Barclay Ave, Flushing, NY 11355
Pan American International High School	45-10 94th St, Flushing, NY 11373

**For more information, visit the Internationals Network website:**  
[www.internationalsnetwork.org](http://www.internationalsnetwork.org).

## ► Transfer High Schools

There are **5 Transfer High Schools in New York City** that serve youth (usually ages 16-21) who arrived recently to the US and who are learning to speak English. They are called “ELL Transfer Schools.” They are full-time schools that provide a high school diploma.

ELL Transfer Schools support students who may have been out of school for some time or who have never attended school. They are located in Manhattan and the Bronx. Students at Transfer High Schools attend school Monday-Friday, usually from 8am-4pm

These schools offer:

- Help with learning English
- Small class sizes
- Extra help with reading, writing, & math
- Bilingual social workers
- Paid internships and/or job opportunities
- Night school for students who work (available at Manhattan Comprehensive Night and Day)
- Other services provided by organizations in the community such as help with immigration and housing

***ELL Transfer High Schools in Manhattan and The Bronx that support new immigrant youth:***

<b>School</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
ELLIS Preparatory Academy (X397)	99 Terrace View Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463	718-220-1889
Emma Lazarus High School (M394)	100 Hester Street, Manhattan, NY 10002	212-925-5017
Manhattan Comprehensive Night & Day (M575)	240 2 Avenue, Manhattan, NY 10003	212-353-2010
Liberty High School Academy for Newcomers (M550)	250 West 18 Street, Manhattan, NY 10011	212-691-0934
Lower East Side Preparatory Academy (M515)	145 Stanton Street, Manhattan, NY 10002	212-505-6366

***There are additional Transfer High Schools in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens that welcome newly arrived immigrant youth:***

<b>School</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Bushwick Community High School (K564)	231 Palmetto Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221	718-443-3083
Queens Satellite High School for Opportunity (Q338)	162-02 Hillside Avenue, Queens, NY 11432	718-883-1200
Queens Academy High School (Q540)	138-11 35 Avenue, Queens, NY 11354	718-463-3111
North Queens Community High School (Q792)	141-25 77 Road, Queens, NY 11367	718-380-1650
Bronx Community High School (X377)	1980 Lafayette Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473	718-892-1026
Arturo A. Schomburg Satellite Academy Bronx (X446)	1010 Rev. J. A. Polite Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459	718-518-3050

## ► Local High Schools

There are also high schools in your community that enroll all students 14-21 years old, including recently arrived immigrant students. Students at local high schools attend school Monday-Friday, usually from 8am-4pm. Some of these schools offer bilingual classes, and others have programming for newcomers. When you visit a Family Welcome Center, ask which high schools have bilingual programs in your language or programs for immigrant students.

### NOTE:

ALL local high schools offer support for students who are learning English, called **English as a New Language**

Local high schools that serve newly arrived immigrants include:

Borough	Local High Schools that serve newly arrived immigrants
<b>Manhattan</b>	HS for Dual and Asian Studies Manhattan Bridges High School Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language Gregorio Luperon High School for Science & Mathematics
<b>Bronx</b>	New World High School Academy for Language and Technology Bronx Bridges High School High School of Language & Innovation International School for Liberal Arts High School of World Cultures Kingsbridge International High School Bronx Community High School
<b>Brooklyn</b>	Multicultural High School
<b>Queens</b>	ATLAS High School Queens High School for Language Studies

# How to Enroll in High School

If you are 14-21 years old and you would like to enroll in a NYCPS high school, you should visit a local “Family Welcome Center” and speak to an enrollment counselor about your options.

## If you choose a **Local or International High School:**

The Family Welcome Center will give you an assignment letter. This letter will have the name and address of the school you will attend. You should contact the school directly and complete the enrollment process in person at the school.

## If you choose a **Transfer High School:**

The Family Welcome Center will give you one or more referral letters. Each letter will have the name and address of a transfer school. You should contact each school and set up an appointment for a visit. Transfer schools have their own admissions process where they determine if a student is a good match.



### **NOTE:**

If you do not get enrolled at any of the schools that you visit, you should **return to the Family Welcome Center for more options.**

On the next page, you can find a list of all Family Welcome Centers, and their contact information. Family Welcome Centers are open from 8am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday; 8am - 3pm, Friday. Translation and interpretation services are available at Family Welcome Centers.

## Family Welcome Centers (FWCs)

**Family Welcome Centers are open from 8am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday; and from 8am - 3pm on Friday. Translation and interpretation services are available at Family Welcome Centers.**

Borough	District(s) Served	Address & Email	Phone Number
<b>Bronx</b>	7, 9, 10	1 Fordham Plaza, 7th Floor <a href="mailto:FordhamFWC@schools.nyc.gov">FordhamFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-329-8050
	8, 11, 12	1230 Zerega Ave, Room 24 <a href="mailto:ZeregaFWC@schools.nyc.gov">ZeregaFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-828-7546
<b>Brooklyn</b>	16, 17, 18, 22	1780 Ocean Avenue, 3rd Floor <a href="mailto:OceanFWC@schools.nyc.gov">OceanFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-758-7744
	13, 15, 20, 21	415 89th Street, 5th Floor <a href="mailto:89thFWC@schools.nyc.gov">89thFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-759-3900
<b>Manhattan</b>	14, 19, 23, 32	1665 St. Mark's Avenue, Room 116 <a href="mailto:StMarksFWC@schools.nyc.gov">StMarksFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-240-3609
	1, 2, 4	333 7th Avenue, 12th Fl., Room 1211 <a href="mailto:333FWC@schools.nyc.gov">333FWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	917-339-1763
<b>Queens</b>	3, 5, 6	123 Morningside Drive, Room 235 <a href="mailto:MorningsideFWC@schools.nyc.gov">MorningsideFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	332-228-0312
	24, 30	28-11 Queens Plaza North, 3rd Fl. <a href="mailto:QueensPlazaNFWC@schools.nyc.gov">QueensPlazaNFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-391-6270
	25, ,26	30-48 Linden Place, 2nd Floor <a href="mailto:LindenFWC@schools.nyc.gov">LindenFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-281-3538
<b>Staten Island</b>	27, 28, 29	90-27 Sutphin Boulevard, 1st Floor <a href="mailto:SutphinFWC@schools.nyc.gov">SutphinFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-557-2786
	31	365 Bay Street <a href="mailto:BayStreetFWC@schools.nyc.gov">BayStreetFWC@schools.nyc.gov</a>	718-935-3500

**NOTE:** If you are under the age of 18 and have a parent or guardian, they must accompany you to the Family Welcome Center to enroll in school. If you are under 18 and an emancipated minor or unaccompanied youth, you do not need to be accompanied by an adult to enroll in school.

## **What documents do I need for registration?**

You must bring the following documents when registering in school:

- **Proof of the student's age**, such as a birth certificate or passport.
- **Immunization records** for the student.
- **School records**, including from previous country, if available.
- **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** or 504 Accommodation Plan, if the student has one.
- **A photo ID** for the parent or guardian.
- You must also bring 2 forms of **proof to show you live in NYC**. Proof of residency includes:
  - A gas, electric, or cable television bill from the past 60 days.
  - A rent receipt from the past 60 days.
  - A property tax bill.
  - An original lease, deed, or mortgage agreement.
  - A document from a payroll or government agency.
  - Affidavit from someone who knows you live at your address. (*In this situation you will be asked for 3 forms of proof of residency.*)

### **NOTE:**

If you are currently living in a shelter or other form of temporary housing, you do not need **any** of these documents to enroll

## **What is a student's school records are from another country?**

If the student's records are from outside the U.S. and in a different language, they should be translated by New York City Public Schools (NYCPS).

## **What if a student doesn't have school records?**

If you do not have school records from your previous country, the school cannot turn you away. They should enroll you in the grade closest to your age. School records can be provided, if available, after you are enrolled.

# **HSE DIPLOMA AND OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AGED 17+**

NYCPS offers a High School Equivalency diploma for youth who do not have a US high school diploma. There are also programs available to help students improve their academic skills, learn English, and participate in job-focused training. All of these programs are **FREE**.

## **► High School Equivalency (HSE) Preparation**

If you are 17 years old and above, you can choose to take the GED exam and obtain a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma. A HSE diploma shows that you have the academic skills as a high school graduate. You earn it by passing four subject tests. You can take courses that prepare you for this exam through NYCPS. There are day and evening schedules for these classes. The classes and the HSE exam are available in English or Spanish.

These classes are most helpful for students who have some level of English or Spanish attainment and general reading, writing, and math skills. To learn more about HSE classes, visit a Referral Center:

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Address &amp; Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b>Bronx</b>	1010 Rev. James Polite Avenue, Room 436 Bronx, NY 10459	718-518-4530
<b>Brooklyn</b>	69 Schermerhorn Street Brooklyn, NY 11201	718-935-9457
<b>Manhattan</b>	269 West 35th Street, 11th Floor New York, NY 10018	212-244-1274
<b>Queens</b>	162-02 Hillside Avenue Queens, NY 11432	929-352-2206
<b>Staten Island</b>	365 Bay Street Staten Island, NY 10301	917-722-3800

## ► Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Adult Basic Education is designed for students who are looking to improve their reading, writing, and math skills. These classes are great for students who have been out of school for some time.

## ► English as a Second/Other Language (ESOL)

English as a Second/Other Language courses are meant for students of ALL levels to improve their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in English. There are classes available in basic to advanced.

## ► Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Career and Technical Education courses provide job-focused training in fields such as computer skills, automotive, and many more for adult students looking for job preparedness training.

## How to Enroll in ABE, ESOL, or CTE

Visit an Adult Education Enrollment Center, open Monday-Thursday every week.

	Borough	Address & Email
<i>Daytime enrollment (9am – 1pm)</i>	Bronx	3450 East Tremont Avenue 3rd Fl Bronx, NY 10465
	Brooklyn	557 Granville Payne Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11207
	Brooklyn	475 Nostrand Avenue Brooklyn NY 11216
	Manhattan	271 Melrose Street Brooklyn, NY 11206
	Manhattan	269 West 35th Street 7th Fl New York, NY 10001
	Queens	212 West 120th Street New York, NY 10027
	Queens	27-35 Jackson Avenue Long Island City, NY 11101
	Queens	142-10 Linden Boulevard Queens, NY 11436
	Brooklyn	271 Melrose Street Brooklyn, NY 11206
<i>Evening enrollment (5pm-8pm)</i>	Staten Island	450 St. Marks Place Staten Island, NY 10301
	Queens	90-01 Sutphin Blvd. 2nd Fl Jamaica, NY 11435

# OTHER RESOURCES

## NYC, Brooklyn, and Queens Public Libraries

New York City has three public library systems that each have their own variety of offerings from English as a Second Language to technology workshops and more. Scan the QR codes to learn more about each library system's offerings:

### New York Public Library (NYPL)



### Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)



### Queens Public Library (QPL)



## Where can I go for immigration assistance?

CUNY Citizenship Now centers offer free immigration services by appointment. Below are the locations and contact information for the city's CUNY Citizenship now offices:

CUNY Immigration Center	Language(s) Spoken	Phone	Hours	Address
Hostos Community College	English, Spanish	718-518-4395	Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm, 2-5pm	427 Walton Ave., T-501 Bronx, NY 10451
Medgar Evers College	English, Spanish, Polish	718-270-6292	Mon-Fri, 9am-1:15pm, 1:45-4pm	1150 Carroll St., Rm 226 Brooklyn, NY 11225
City College	English, Spanish, Italian	212-650-6620	Mon-Fri,	160 Convent Ave., North Academic Center, Rm 1-

			9am-5pm	206 New York, NY 10031
<b>CUNY in the Heights</b>	English, Spanish	646-664-9350	Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm	5030 Broadway, Ste. H202 New York, NY 10034
<b>Flushing</b>	English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish	718-640-9223	Mon-Fri, 9:30am-1pm, 2-4:30pm	39-07 Prince St., Ste. 2B Flushing, NY 11354
<b>York College</b>	English, Spanish	646-664-9400	Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:00pm	94-20 Guy Brewer Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11451
<b>El Centro Del Immigrante</b>	English, Spanish	347-825-2086	Mon-Sat 7:00am-12pm	260 Port Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10302

**This guide and additional resources on educational services in New York City are available on our website, [www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org).**

## Our Mission

Advocates for Children of New York (AFC)'s mission is to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds. AFC achieves this through four integrated strategies:

- Free advice and legal representation for families of students;
- Free trainings and workshops for parents, communities, and educators and other professionals, to equip them to advocate on behalf of students;
- Policy advocacy to effect change in the education system and improve education outcomes; and
- Impact litigation to protect the right to quality education and to compel needed education reform.

**Still have more questions? Please call the Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline:**

Monday through Thursday  
10 am to 4 pm  
866-427-6033 (toll free)

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